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Ishmael Writes to a Friend Back Home: a Golden Shovel Poem

“Better to sleep with a sober cannibal than a drunken Christian.”

~ Ishmael in *Moby-Dick*

Depressed with life on land, I thought it better
to head for Nantucket and set sail, to
find contentment on a whaling ship rather than sleep
walk through another winter. I left home alone with
meager possessions. In New Bedford, I met a
harpooner. An experienced whaler, sober
and strong, Queequeg was a cannibal,
but so congenial—more like a brother than
a friend. His mistake—trusting me to select a
ship. I picked the Piquod, whose captain was drunken
with vengeance, having few values I'd call Christian.

Wildea Morris



Neptune's Realm
Acrylic mixed media by Tania Blanco